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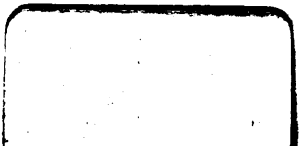

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Thomas Gilliland

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND;

OR,

OBSERVATIONS

ON

A PAMPHLET, ENTITLED "A REVIEW OF THE CONDUCT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES;"

COMPRISING

A FREE AND IMPARTIAL VIEW

OF

MR. JEFFERYS,

AS A

TRADESMAN, POLITICIAN, AND COURTIER,

DURING A PERIOD OF TWENTY YEARS.

BY PHILO-VERITAS.

'Tis certain Greatness, once fallen out with Fortune,
Must fall out with Men too.

SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY B. McMILLAN, BOW-STREET, COVENT-GARDEN,
PRINTER TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,

FOR C. CHAPPLE, PALL-MALL, AND SOUTHAMPTON-ROW,
RUSSELL-SQUARE.

1806.

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TO THE READER.

IT was some days after Mr. Jefferys' pamphlet appeared in circulation, before it came into my hands. On perusing it, I instantly saw through the motives of the writer; and, after due consideration of the subject, and having the necessary resources of information for an Answer, I commenced the following observations, from a conviction that I could not fight in a better cause, than that of an injured and libelled Prince.

PHILO-VERITAS.

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DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND.

THE example of a neighbouring nation has given irrefragable proof of the danger which is attached to any effort that is made to poison, and alienate, the affections of a people from their Prince. If Princes are liable to the calumny of every vain, wanton, and disappointed man, the public will in time lose that reverence and respect which a people ought to manifest for their governors. Neither Prince nor Laws can long retain their proper tone of power, when the people relax in their respect for them.

The body politic will soon become a mouldering system, inflated with perpetual dissention and discord, when its subjects are taught to look at Princes, as characters possessing all the inferior qualities of the human heart.

It becomes us therefore, for the collective happiness and personal safety of the subject, not to suffer the malignant breath of the vicious to tar-

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nish the character of any part of our Illustrious ROYAL FAMILY, whose greatness and preservation constitute all those blessings peculiar to English liberty, and whose safety, dignity, and honour, is so united with the safety, dignity, and honour of the subject, that when the one ceases to exist, the other must cease to be happy.

Non possidentem multa vocaveris
Recte beatum: rectius occupat
Nomen beati, qui Deorum
Muneribus sapienter uti,
Duramque callet Pauperiem pati
Pejusque Letho flagitium timet.

HORACE.

Under these impressions, and actuated by these pure motives, I have become an opponent to the contents of a pamphlet lately written by Mr. Jefferys, of Pall Mall.

As this Writer has laid himself open to free animadversion, from the publicity he has given to fancied injuries, he must not take umbrage if I should penetrate a little beyond the surface, and throw such lights on the folly of his conduct, both as a tradesman, politician, and courtier, as will, in his cooler moments, make him regret the

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day he first aspired to any office, beyond that of his own compting-house. His pursuits in the years of his youth, can be of no moment in this discussion*. I therefore commence my first view of his conduct in the year 1783, when he was understood to have been a man of some respectability.

From this period, I shall trace his progressive movements to the present hour, and I hope with a just, but spirited pencil, shall delineate the unbridled passions of his mind, and trace the cause of those misfortunes which he has ungenerously and ungentlemanly attributed to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In those happy

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* As Mr. Jefferys appears so fond of Biographical Anecdotes it will not be improper to mention who he was, before he had any concerns with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He is the son of the late Mr. Jefferys, a cutler near Beaufort-buildings, in the Strand. At the age of fourteen he was bound an apprentice to a silversmith, and a relation, in Cockspur-street, where for a short time after the expiration of his articles, he performed the duties of a shopman. His father afterwards advanced him something less than a thousand pounds, which set him up in business at the corner of Dover-street, Piccadilly. His connexion, and the extensive credit he obtained, were first owing to the favours of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

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days, Mr. Jefferys was conducting the business of a jeweller and goldsmith, and had he made a prudent use of his connexions, he might have realized a fortune in a few years. But the moment His Royal Highness was numbered in the list of his customers, Mr. Jefferys became another man; his mind was not of a texture strong enough to retain the same notions which he would have possessed in doing business with any gentleman of less dignity than the Prince of Wales. The elegant and polished manners of His Royal Highness, and that ease, and affability of address which characterize this illustrious personage, poor Jefferys took for proofs of equality and permanent friendship; and thus in a few visits, he thought he got his foot on the first step of a ladder, that would one day or other, raise him to something little less than the *Premiership* of England.

"Out of thine own mouth will I condemn thee."

"His Royal Highness received me with great kindness of manners, and so completely captivated me by his condescensions, that,

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young and credulous as I then was, I imagined my fortune made by his smile."

If he had wisely taken a view of his comparative situation with the PRINCE of WALES, before he had presumed to obtrude himself as a companion, he would have shown as great a mind, as honest *Job Thornbury*, in Colman's excellent Comedy of *John Bull*. When *Sir Simon Rochdale* asks him to take a chair,

"I thank you, Sir Simon, I know my proper place," &c.

but this was not the case—the moment His Royal Highness smiled on him, Jefferys neglected his shop for Carlton House, and increased in altitude two feet, at least he became tall enough to look over the heads of his former friends and companions. It is a known fact, that Mr. Jefferys took every opportunity of throwing himself in the way of the Prince, for Royal notice, and many persons have observed, *he got tall and thin*, as he became the Prince's *shadow*. While Mr. Jefferys was for years neglecting business to pay his court at Carlton House, and using all the seductive arts of a flatterer, to raise himself

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to some honourable post in the State; it would not have become His Royal Highness to have said, "Mr. Jefferys, I do not presume to "question the state of your affairs, but if you "are continually at my doors, and in all my "walks, I am afraid your shop and business will "not continue long in a flourishing state." This was the duty of Mr. Jefferys to have inquired into, and not of the Prince of Wales to point out.

What a contrast may be shewn between Mr. Jefferys and the wealthy citizens of London, who are repeatedly honoured with the lustre of his society, and mix in his gayest circles, yet they make a prudent and modest use of His Royal Highness's company, politeness and favours, and are not continually obtruding themselves at the expence of that time, which, properly employed, is the support of their consequence. Every person at all acquainted with the nature of trade, must know, that if a shopkeeper does not dedicate his time to the proper adjustment of his books, and be ready behind the counter to attend his customers, his servants will in all probability fatten on his misfortunes, and afterwards visit him in a gaol in the character of an equal,

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and give him relief out of his own property. There are many shades of light in which Mr. Jefferys' conduct as a tradesman may be shown, to convince the most rigid sceptic, that *his vanity* has been the cause of his ruin, and not his *money concerns* with the Prince of Wales. When he had once found access to the private chamber of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and *sneaked* into his *confidence (which he has now unmanly, ungentlemanly and dishonourably violated to gratify an unprofitable revenge)* his former establishment as a tradesman would not do; the same company he was once happy to see at his festive board, were now not high enough in rank for his new connexion, consequently every thing expensive was purchased, to correspond with the character and dignity of his visitors.

A town and country house, table, servants, &c. necessary for the reception of his elevated companions, must have made a very considerable difference in his yearly expenditure, and where elegant dinners were often given, the clear income of Mr. Jefferys must have been very great, or the natural conclusion of any rational man must be, that principal, and not profit, went to defray

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the extravagant expences of his folly. A tradesman who resides within the circle of fashionable life, must know that business cannot be done among the Nobility without giving long credit, and if his capital is ever so large, he ought to be a close attendant to business, and a man of proper economy, otherwise he may be soon numbered among the unfortunate in the Gazette, in consequence of the heavy yearly demands he has to answer, though he may not get paid by his noble customers for several years. But the Nobility know perfectly well, that they pay very amply for their long credit; and the profit a tradesman attaches to his articles for seven years, is generally very handsome interest for the use of his money. I am, therefore, not surprized that the Nobility do not feel for men of this sort, when they see a jeweller keeping the establishment of a Prince, and giving the dinners of a King.

Having traced Mr. Jefferys from the fountain of his folly, into the rapid current of his own ruin, which has led him to his last desperate act of publishing a voyage pregnant with nothing but audacity and imbecility, I shall now beg leave to combat the various passages of his work,

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and give my free opinion of the propriety of his motives. He commences his attack on His Royal Highness, in these terms: "The task which necessity (arising from oppression) has imposed upon me is not difficult, supported as I am by the justice of my cause, and confident in the liberal feelings of the public upon a case of such peculiar hardship, as, perhaps, never before engaged their attention." He places the cause of his pamphlet to necessity. I should be glad to know, whether the public called upon him to publish his case for universal *pity or relief*, or with a view to participate with him in a malicious attack on His Royal Highness, whose elevation of character is Mr. Jefferys' protection. I believe the intelligent and liberal part of the world will think with me, that Mr. Jefferys has done himself no possible good by his publication, with the exception of a small sum of money he may get by his authorship.

The threat of publication which Mr. Jefferys held out to His Royal Highness, only met with the contempt and indignation such conduct deserved; sensible as the Prince of Wales must

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have been, that any publicity given to their money concerns, would shew Mr. Jefferys to be, what every honourable man has *a ready name for*. Did Mr. Jefferys suppose, after a violation of confidence, and the indelicate and ungentlemanly use of a Lady's name (whose sex ought to have protected her from insult), that he would repair the *supposed* losses he complains of, by the little paltry means he has taken in calling public attention to the exposure of his own destructive ambition?—if he did, I pity his weakness. But it is pretty evident he did not expect a reconciliation with His Royal Highness, consequently his only motive was to ferment the public mind with an idle tale of his misfortunes, and insult the feelings of two personages, one of whom, as a female, cannot defend herself, and the other, as a Prince, cannot condescend to dirty his fingers in an affray with a libeller. Mr. Jefferys well knew, that the situation of His Royal Highness, and his female opponent, constituted his shield of personal safety. The knowledge of personal security to a man of an honourable mind, would be alone a sufficient reason not to give an insult, when the situation of the parties pre-

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cluded the possibility of avenging the offence. To shew in the clearest possible point of view, that Mr. Jefferys' pamphlet was the offspring of a malicious mind, and not, as he says, the creature of necessity *to defend his character*, I dissect the following paragraph.

" Though not a difficult task, it is nevertheless a very *painful duty*, to be compelled as I now am, in defence of my character, which has been most severely reflected upon (and nothing less than such a feeling could lead to such an act), to bring forward, in no very amiable point of view, the conduct of a personage so exalted in rank as His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales."

It appears from the above, that he has been most severely reflected upon: that may have been the case; his friends would naturally condemn a tradesman for keeping the expensive company of persons so far above his station in life, without any fortune but that arising from his shop; and his creditors would also censure his conduct for having supported the establishment of a Nobleman with the money that ought to have been appropriated for the satisfaction of their demands. Mr.

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Jefferys feeling the justness of these rebukes, accounts for the sentiments of this parenthesis (and nothing less than such a *feeling* could lead to such an act) which in plain English means, that he was become desperate with his folly and weakness, and to appear in proper character he committed a desperate act, which has shewn him in a less amiable point of view than he can possibly place His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Jefferys has observed, that he got the favour of His ROYAL HIGHNESS in consequence of Mr. Gray, an eminent jeweller of Sackville-street, having requested a settlement of the great demands he had at Carlton House. Had any one of less consequence than His Royal Highness expressed an inclination to enter his name in Mr. Jefferys' books, he would have shook his head and said, "No, Sir, I cannot think of that; you have left Mr. Gray because he applied to you for money, and as it is inconvenient to you to settle any part of his bill, I must beg leave to decline the honour of opening an account with you." Mr. Jefferys knows very well that would have been the case; indeed I am inclined to

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believe he would have used almost the same language to His Royal Highness, if his ambitious mind had not *pointed out to him* prospects *far above a jeweller's shop*. If the public think Mr. Jefferys opened an account with His Royal Highness with no other view but that of getting a good customer, they are very much deceived—every thing he did to accommodate the Prince of Wales, was accompanied with *motives* of the *most ambitious avarice*. If the Prince of Wales could have raised him to the Chancellorship of England, Jefferys would have purchased his robes and wig, and taken his seat in his respective Courts and the House of Peers, in defiance of the ridicule and opposition of the whole nation.

Amidst all his plausible invective against His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, he now and then is candid enough to acknowledge that he made it his business to be about the person of the Prince. "From this time not a day passed for several years, in which, neglecting my general business, I did not spend half my time at Carlton House." How could any thing but ruin follow such improper conduct; it was not only unjust to himself, but equally so to

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his wife and family; even the warning of his friends had no effect on him; he was determined to be something *very great*, or *nothing*; and his publication clearly shews that his progress in life has been a retrograde motion.

"Whatever feelings of the most devoted attachments I had hitherto entertained for the Prince of Wales." I cannot suffer this sentiment to pass unquestioned. Mr. Jefferys had no attachment for His Royal Highness at this, or any subsequent time, as I shall shew from the whole of his conduct towards his Royal Patron. Instead of "the most devoted attachment," he meant the "most devoted sycophancy," which is the real sense of his language. He then goes on to say, in the same paragraph, "a circumstance occurred, the particulars of which I am now about to relate, and which sealed and confirmed all my ideas as to the perfect confidence which might be placed in the assurances of His Royal Highness, as to the future protection of me and my family, should (which I then little thought would be the case) any misfortunes overtake me, and make a resort to such protection necessary."

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If Mr. Jefferys had published this account correctly, it would then be clearly seen, what even his ingenuity has not been able to conceal in the above observations, that all his efforts to oblige the Prince of Wales, carried with them exorbitant claims on His Royal Highness for himself and family, which he has qualified in these words—" should any misfortunes overtake me." The sense of the paragraph implies, that he did not care what became of his business, or how he made use of his creditors' property, as long as he could obtain the shadow of a hope that he should, one day or the other, rise to some office of eminence in the country.

He has now found out, from what follows in the succeeding paragraph, that it was a great want of foresight in him to form " such conclusions as he then did ;" and he goes on to say, he was " deluded and misled." Yes, he was deluded and misled ; but, if a man will shut his eyes and walk over stones, he must expect to break his shins. His unsatiable ambition, was the deceptive mirror which magnified nods and smiles into sinecures of honour, and Royal affability into solid friendship.

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If any sincere friend had taken the liberty to have addressed him in the following terms, Jefferys would have spurned him for ever.

" MY DEAR JEFFERYS,

" I have with the utmost pain observed your folly for several years past; you have flattered yourself, from having had free access to the chamber of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that you could command any thing your mighty and ambitious heart panted for; and having accommodated His August Personage with various articles to a considerable amount, you have foolishly thought he dared not refuse you any object of your wish. The debt already contracted will, no doubt, be paid one time or the other; and, if you immediately return to your counting-house, and attend to its necessary concerns, His Royal Highness's account will not hurt you; but while you, as a tradesman, are always following a Personage so much your superior in station, the Public will feel no inclination to employ you, as they will naturally think you are above your business, or that you will charge such exorbitant prices for your articles, as will go a great way towards paying the debts of others. My dear Jefferys, it is not too late to exert yourself; think no more of the politics of Cabinets, Parliamentary Opposition, and Sinecures; but by your professional assiduity do your best for your creditors, family and self, and once more try to walk humbly before your God."

Mr. Jefferys proceeds to inform us, that in the year 1790, His Royal Highness sent for him, and said, he had a great favour to ask of Mr. J. " which if I could accom-

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pish, would be doing him the greatest service, and he should ever consider it accordingly."—Agreeable to the account of this pamphlet, His Royal Highness then proceeded to state, "that a creditor of Mrs. Fitzherbert had made a very peremptory demand for the payment of about 1600*l.*; that Mr. Weltje had been sent by His Royal Highness to the creditor making such demand, to desire it might be placed to the Prince's account. This was refused to be done, on the ground that Mrs. Fitzherbert, being a woman of no rank or consideration in the eye of the law, as to personal privilege, was amenable to an immediate process, which was not the case with His Royal Highness. This the Prince stated to have caused in his mind the greatest uneasiness, for fear of the consequences that might ensue, as it was not in the power of His Royal Highness to pay the money then, or to name an earlier period for so doing than three or four months. The request His Royal Highness had to make to me was, that I would interfere upon the occasion, and prevent, if possible, any personal inconvenience to Mrs. Fitzherbert, which would be attended

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with extreme mortification to the feelings of His Royal Highness."

Mr. Jefferys assured His Royal Highness that he would do all he could in the business; and, when Mr. Jefferys returned to Carlton House on the following day, he presented the Prince of Wales with a receipt for the whole sum, 1,585*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* which he had that morning paid, being, as he says, "the only effectual means of pacifying the creditor, and removing from the mind of His Royal Highness the anxiety under which he appeared so strongly to labour."

There is an old remark, which Mr. Jefferys' conduct has fully verified, "never receive a favour of your inferior, or he will cancel the obligation by the publicity he gives to his kindness." Was there any thing criminal or improper in the Prince of Wales asking the temporary assistance of his tradesman? whose extensive business warranted every probable conclusion that he could not be without a few hundred pounds at his command, and *who kept up his consequence as long as he could, by the appearance of great wealth:* a man too, who was daily choaking

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His Royal Highness with professions of reverence and attachment, and who was hourly receiving His Royal Highness's favours, and the benefits his illustrious influence had given him in the highest circles of life.

But to proceed a little farther in my remarks on this *mighty favour*, for which Mr. Jefferys would scarcely have thought *the Treasurership of the Navy* too great a return. The sum paid for the use of Mrs. Fitzherbert, and placed to the account of the Prince of Wales, was 1,585*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* which General Hulse repaid to Mr. Jefferys at the end of three months. As Mr. Jefferys does not inform the public whether he received any legal interest for the use of his money, they may make their conclusions on that point. But to speak hypothetically, suppose he did not receive the legal interest of five per cent. for the use of the above money, then the *whole of the favour conferred on the* Prince of Wales is the amount of the sum; which 1,585*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* will produce, at the legal interest of five per cent.; for to accuse a man of Mr. Jefferys' *liberal and enlarged mind* with *usurious* motives, would *be unjust*, therefore five per cent. for the use of the

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above sum for three months, is, according to loose calculation, about *twenty pounds*.

In a subsequent part of his pamphlet he also mentions having a second time accommodated His Royal Highness with a loan of 420*l*., which was paid him in the course of fifteen months, the interest of which does not exceeds *thirty pounds*. Now the language of Mr. Jefferys must induce any one to think, that he expected something *far beyond* the paltry interest of five per cent. for the temporary service he had rendered to His Royal Highness. Read, and then judge: "I am of opinion that the payment of the money will not be considered by the world as discharging the obligation, however it might do the debt." Mr. Jefferys forgets, that at this very time he had *the enormous sum of one hundred pounds clear profit* out of *every three hundred pounds worth of articles* sent to Carlton House. But more of this presently.

I am confident there is no person so incredulous, as to suppose His Royal Highness could not have got the money in question through any other medium than that of Mr. Jefferys; for if His Royal Highness had felt a delicacy in

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asking any of his noble friends and associates for the loan of this sum, he knew very well that this town abounds with persons who live in repute by accommodating the public with money at a moderate interest, when their property is well secured. The Prince of Wales might very naturally think (as Mr. Jefferys continually professed to be flattered with the honour of performing any affair of service for His Royal Highness), there could be no impropriety in his condescending to make Mr. Jefferys of temporary use in an affair of secrecy: but look at the return Jefferys has made for the Prince's good opinion of him. His ambition has induced him to tell the world, that His Royal Highness honoured him with his confidence, and the malignity of his nature has prompted him to give publicity to a circumstance *that could not have escaped the lips of a gentleman, under any circumstances.* Whenever a man is induced to accuse another of a real or an imaginary injury, he ought to couch his sentiments in the most simple and clear terms, otherwise the reader will be constantly in the dark as to the true meaning of his author. Mr. Jefferys has said in the fol-

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lowing words—"His Royal Highness was unbounded in his expressions of satisfaction at what I had accomplished" (meaning the payment of Mrs. Fitzherbert's account, &c.), "*and in his assurances of future support.*" These words round *almost every period in his pamphlet*; and, it must be observed, that they are *indefinite terms.* I confess I do not know whether Mr. Jefferys meant to *convey by these words*, that His Royal Highness had promised to keep him as a *butterfly* to flutter round his person in the dog-days; or to place him on the bench of a court of *conscience*, which would be the most uneasy seat he ever took; or make him inspector-general of the petitions of fraudulent debtors—a place for which his knowledge and talents are peculiarly qualified; or make him keeper of the lions in the Tower, where he might learn dignity of demeanor, and improve the natural ferocity of his nature; or make him Peeping Tom of Coventry, where he would pry into the secrets of the great, and then tell the whole town what he had seen and heard.

To resume my serious view of this man's conduct (which scarcely deserves any thing but con-

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tempt and ridicule), I must beg leave to observe, that Mr. Jefferys has been *cunning enough to conceal* from the public the nature of the support which, he says, the Prince of Wales so repeatedly promised him. But shall I unfold this great secret, and tell him and the world, that His Royal Highness's promises never implied any thing more than a support of Mr. Jefferys as a man of business? and that, of course, could only be understood to continue while he had *the art* of behaving as a tradesman ought to do towards a Prince; particularly a personage whom I will presently shew has been the best customer Jefferys ever had: whether he has made a prudent and wise use of his Illustrious Patron, is another matter. If he had not assumed *the fine gentleman*, but preserved the character of a respectable tradesman (which he was only fit for), poor Jefferys would have been at this time *a man of mettle*; but now, alas! he has no more brass than what the Prince of Wales has recently found in his face, and the public in his pamphlet.

Mr. Jefferys proceeds to say, that the Prince

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of Wales and Mrs. Fitzherbert waited on him, for the express purpose of returning their thanks for his having set their minds at rest with respect to the 1500*l.* just mentioned; but it appears that, however great the condescension and politeness of the Prince of Wales was to him, nothing short of some great office in the State, could appease the cravings of his voracious appetite.

Now comes a paragraph that requires my particular notice, and I believe the candid reader will think with me, that, it will *shew the very slight grounds* he had for unwarrantably introducing to public notice the character of a beautiful and amiable woman.

" As to what passed at my house when His Royal Highness came there with Mrs. Fitzherbert, a person, still in my service was present, and to whom I remarked, immediately as the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert had quitted it, that if ever I should have the misfortune to lose the Prince's favour, I should have cause to lament the day when Mrs. Fitzherbert was under the necessity of thanking me for a service performed

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to her;—an observation I was induced to make, from the mortified pride visible in the countenance of that lady."

First I have to observe, that the obligation (if any) was due from Mrs. Fitzherbert to His Royal Highness, and *not from her* to Mr. Jefferys, consequently she had no rational cause to feel mortified on the occasion; nor is it likely that the Prince of Wales would have requested her to accompany him to Mr. Jefferys' dwelling, if it had been unpleasant to her feelings, particularly as His Royal Highness had acknowledged Mr. Jefferys' act of civility in the morning, when he took the receipt to Carlton House for the money paid.

It clearly appears Mr. Jefferys did not know how to account for the scandalous and malicious introduction of Mrs. Fitzherbert's name in his pamphlet, without making her the *convenient cause* of all his subsequent ill-favour with the Prince of Wales. In order, therefore, to have an opportunity to libel an amiable Lady in conjunction with His Royal Highness, he assumed the character of a physiognomist, who could discover all the secrets of the heart, from watching

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the movements of the eye, the dilation or contraction of the brow, and all the muscular actions of the face; and thus to give a specious colouring to an unmanly act, it answered his purpose to fancy a visible enmity in her face, which he dates as the cause of his ruin. But Mr. Jefferys should know that there are people in this town who can strip the veil *from off the artfully constructed period*, and exhibit the impurity of the writer in all the glaring colours of his native iniquity. I have not yet done with the above paragraph.

Mr. Jefferys observes, that the moment the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert had left him, he told his *servant* that he should lament the hour that Mrs. Fitzherbert was under the necessity of thanking him for any service conferred on him.

What opinion must the public have of a *man's mind and habits*, who would make his servant a confidant on such a delicate subject as the one before us.

I beg leave to inform Mr. Jefferys, that when he lost the patronage of the Prince of Wales, it was owing to the *weakness of his head*, and the *volubility of his tongue*.

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"If a fool knows a secret, he tells it because it is a secret; if a knave knows one, he tells it whenever it is his interest to tell it."

LORD CHESTERFIELD.

Servants, house-agents, money-lenders, and persons of all descriptions, knew all the secrets of Carlton House, that it was in the power of Peeping Tom of Coventry to obtain in the daily walks of his curiosity. There was not a person, high or low, rich or poor, who had any thing to do with Mr. Jefferys, but what have heard him tell a plausible story of his concerns with His Royal Highness, and always at the expence of the Prince's honour and reputation. He artfully thought that his *general and uniform story* against the Prince's liberality to him, would obtain public pity, and get his creditors' mercy and forbearance; so that he has literally lived like a viper, and never opened his mouth but to cast out poison.

This man is a pretty character to bask in the sunshine of Royal favour, and inhale the air of a palace, when his servant is the repository of his secrets, and perhaps the monitor of his actions. If the reader will take the trouble to reflect a little on the above paragraph, he will perceive

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that Mr. Jefferys had the materials of a pamphlet in contemplation at that period, and perhaps from the very first moment his acquaintance commenced with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; as he appears to have noted every circumstance that occurred, in case he should not succeed in obtaining the objects of his ambition, he then would possess a chain of trifles, out of which he could compose sixpenny-worth of trash on the *virtues and good qualities of his own nature.*

The following passage will shew that his motives in accommodating His Royal Highness were of the most mercenary kind, and such as the most greedy and unfeeling usurer would blush to have thought of:

"The only return made by Mrs. Fitzherbert, (for what was also acknowledged by her as a great obligation) was the purchase at different times of goods in which I dealt, to the amount in the whole of 120*l.*"

He then goes on to observe, that he waited a considerable time for his bill, which General Hulse settled by order of His Royal Highness; but Mr. Jefferys ought to have told the public,

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that the profit on the articles delivered to Mrs. Fitzherbert, was more than interest for the use of his money for several years. So much for the great favour he boasts of having conferred on the above Lady.

At the time the Princess of Brunswick and His Royal Highness were about to be united in the bands of holy wedlock, Mr. Jefferys was (by his own account) much about the person of His Royal Highness; and having *ears very quick, memory better than good, and a heart and mind as noble and as attached* to his patron, as a spy is to the duties of his profession, he hung on, and stuck to his Royal victim till he filled himself like a leach, and now he disgorges the matter, to ease himself of a burthen, and live by the sale of his vomit.

He acknowledges his *breach of confidence* and *the proof of his dishonour* in these words: "At that period, I passed much of my time at Carlton House; and though I may *provoke the anger* of the Prince of Wales, and the displeasure of Mrs. Fitzherbert, *I will state that which, from my being so much with His Royal Highness, I*

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had an opportunity of OBSERVING and KNOWING."

He then proceeds to state, that a few loose remarks escaped the lips of His Royal Highness, which conveyed an idea that Mrs. Fitzherbert did not then stand in the same estimation she once had done with the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Jefferys then assumes a pretended delicacy, and says, "I will not repeat the expressions of His Royal Highness upon this subject; it is sufficient to say, that what I heard was not of a nature to increase the respect I had for the character of that Lady."

I am inclined to think no one who has read Mr. Jefferys' pamphlet, will believe from the general feature of the work, that he would have withheld the publicity of the most trifling anecdote that could wound the feelings of either of the personages in question; and I cannot but observe, that he appears to be fearful, his dark and malignant insinuations should not receive credit, without preparing the reader with a plausible preface to the subject, by saying, that subsequent events may contradict his assertion, meaning, that

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that Mrs. Fitzherbert has since that period regained her influence at Carlton House. If the reader will take the trouble to analyze the sentiment of the paragraph, and then compare it with the different parts of Mr. Jefferys' work, and the nature and complexion of his mind, I am inclined to think Mr. Jefferys will at all events bear the disgrace of having violated the confidence of a Royal chamber, *though he may not have told the truth.* The subsequent conduct of Mr. Jefferys, as relating to his affairs with the Prince of Wales and his creditors, will, when stated, shew that he is liable to mistake facts: I do not say wilfully; but when a man's memory is treacherous, he cannot always *tell the truth.* No gentleman who feels for the honour of his table, the conversation of himself, family, and friends, can in future receive the company of Mr. Jefferys, as private colloquy will not be sacred; and as he has now got a knack of authorship, he will be gleaning the secrets of every chamber, in order to make up a book of scandal, or a scandalous book.

I shall now pass on to Mr. Jefferys' money concerns with the Prince of Wales. It is unnecessary for me to make any remark on his ac-

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count of the quantity or quality of the various articles furnished to His Royal Highness and the other branches of the Royal Household, as I take it for granted his statement in that respect is right.

Mr. Jefferys' claim* on His Royal Highness was 85,028*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in which was included a profit of 30 per cent. as he acknowledged before the Commissioners for conducting the affairs of His Royal Highness, when examined by the Right Hon. William Pitt.

	£.	s.	d.
Therefore the amount of his actual disbursement was	59,520	5	8
His profit of 30 per cent. on the whole demand, was	25,508	13	10
Making the amount of Jefferys' claim	85,028	19	6
Jefferys admits his receipts to be	68,220	18	0
And states his deficiencies at	16,808	1	6
The amount of the claims	£. 85,028	19	6

* A very interesting paper, entitled "*The Statesman,*" has given such a clear analysis of the arithmetical part of Mr. Jefferys' account, that I have inserted parts of it, nearly *verbatim,* but with some few alterations of arrangement.

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	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The profits of Jefferys, as he admitted to the Commissioners, amounted to				25,508	13	10
Lord Cholmondeley, on his *legal claim* of 50,997*l.* 10*s.* paid him in cash 25,000*l.* then there remained but 25,997*l.* 10*s.* from which the Commissioners deducted 10 per cent.	2,599	15	0			
Deduction on his second claim of 24,700*l.* at ten per cent.	3,470	0	0			
Deduction on his third claim of 9,331*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* at ten per cent.	933	2	6			
The whole amount of the deductions made from the entire demand, was only ..	6,002	17	5			
Jefferys received in Debentures, payable in full, and bearing interest at the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per ann. 54,026*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* upon which he says he lost 20 per cent.	10,805	4	1			
Amount of deficiencies, as stated by Jefferys				16,808	1	6
These deficiencies, deducted from the profits admitted above, leave a clear profit of				£. 8,700	12	4

Mr. Jefferys, according to his own account, had a profit of 8,700*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* after all deficiencies were deducted, including his pretended loss.

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of 20 per cent. on the Debentures, which he ought not to have converted into money without the consent of his creditors. The Debentures bore an interest of five per cent. and were payable in full; and Mr. Jefferys ought not to have made a *pretended* sacrifice of 20 per cent. on so great a part of his creditors' property, without calling a meeting of them to authorize him. Had he adopted this line of fair conduct towards the persons who had placed a confidence in his honour, and kept up his importance as a tradesman, they would have got all the advantages arising from the Debentures, which would have brought them considerably more money than the two dividends Mr. Jefferys paid as a bankrupt, amounting together to *one shilling and nine-pence in the pound.* This was not nine per cent. on their respective demands, and not half of the 20 per cent. which he pretends to have lost upon those Debentures. If his creditors had refused to receive the Debentures, he might with some justice have told the public, that they had not dealt with liberality towards him; but he took good care not to try their liberality in that way.

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Mr Jefferys complains much of the *deductions* which were made from the *verdict of a Jury*, and to which he appears to attach much importance. It may here be proper to observe, that they amounted only to 2,599*l.* 15*s.* Surely this trifling sum cannot have involved him in the difficulties of which he complains; nor was, as he says, "the sacred principle of our Constitution—*the verdict of a Jury*—rendered of no effect." Mr. Jefferys must recollect the Commissioners were strictly right, and proceeding in conformity to the Act.

He commenced his action for 54,685*l.* The Jury gave him 50,997*l.* The difference, whether an overcharge, or unfair demand, they struck off; and the reason the Jury gave so large a verdict, was in consideration of the extra trouble *Mr. Jefferys might have had* in selecting so large a quantity of diamonds in so short a time: they certainly were very bountiful and liberal upon this occasion. The persons appointed to value them, fixed the sum at only 43,700*l.* Mr. Jefferys says, the Jury gave him a *legal* claim, viz. for 50,997*l.*; *consequently his demand of the larger sum was not a just, or a legal claim.*

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But the Commissioners went further, and struck off a larger sum.

The Gentlemen whom the Commissioners employed to value the diamonds, were Mr. Cripps, Mr. Duval, and Mr. Francillon; the first said in evidence, he had been fifty years in the jewellery trade; he had examined them article by article, and estimated them at 43,700*l.* (Mr. Jefferys' demand was 54,685*l.* a difference of only 11,000*l.*) In that estimate he allowed Mr. Jefferys a profit of 16 per cent. and he thought a consideration of 1200*l.* would be sufficient for any extra trouble Mr. Jefferys might have had in collecting the diamonds. Mr. Duval and Mr. Francillon gave evidence to the same effect. "The Gentlemen employed by Mr. Jefferys estimated the diamonds at 50,997*l.*; but then it is necessary to observe, that one of them had half per cent. commission for his evidence, and that the three others were considerable creditors of Mr. Jefferys, and had sold him the very diamonds in question, at least the greatest part of them." It was admitted upon the trial, on the part of Mr. Jefferys, that he had charged a profit of 30 *per cent.!* Query, How much more? I do not hesitate to assert, from

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this evidence, that Mr. Jefferys charged more than FORTY per cent.; and it is necessary to observe, that in the valuation at 43,700*l.* there was a profit included of 16 per cent. therefore the 11,000*l.* overcharged by Mr. Jefferys was an additional profit of more than 25 per cent. of which the Jury, by their verdict, allowed him about 16 per cent.!!!

Jefferys complains loudly against the Commissioners, for not paying him the whole of his demand, perhaps 40*s.* in the pound. But it seems that he is no less angry with those who unfortunately trusted him, who complain that he has only paid them 1*s.* 9*d.* in the pound; it appears, however, from Jefferys' account, now before the public *(allowing, as he states it, 20 per cent. loss on the Debentures)* that he has positively received 16*s.* in the pound, of the whole demand which he made on the Commissioners, viz. he has received 68,220*l.* 18*s.* out of 85,028*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* But, if I reckoned, as I ought to do, the Debentures at their full amount, it is as clear that Mr. Jefferys received 18*s.* 7*d.* in the pound, as it is clear he only paid his creditors 1*s.* 9*d.* in the pound!!!

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About the year 1796 he received of Lord Cholmondeley 25,000*l.* ready money, and instead of appropriating that sum to liquidate the demands of those persons who enabled him to answer the orders of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, he retired from business with a *pretended fortune*, and in the possession of an elegant house in Hertford-street, May-fair, and another in the Isle of Thanet. Mr. Jefferys then went to Coventry, where he expended near 7000*l.* in gratifying his insatiable ambition to become a Member of Parliament for that City. Without moralising on this act of injustice to his creditors, I cannot but express a belief he wished to secure himself from the legal effects of the law, by getting the protection that is attached to a person in Parliament.

I am creditably informed (and I have no reason to doubt my authority) that his principal creditor, Mr. R—, of the City, on hearing of Mr. Jefferys' journey into the *Land of Promise*, immediately went after him, accompanied by *Messrs. Touch and Takehim*, of Tooke's-court, Chancery-lane. On their arrival at Coventry some arrangements were entered into, which, it is said, gave

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Mr. R. the possession of the above houses, and a sum of money. "*The Statesman*," gives the following account of him when at Coventry in all his glory.

"At Coventry the utmost precaution was taken for his personal security; and so critically desperate were his affairs, that all letters intended for him were sent under cover to a friend, who received, opened, and answered them, lest the bearer, or postman, might be a bailiff in disguise. In going to, and returning from the hustings, he was always surrounded by a hired mob, to prevent the possibility of an arrest; and a writ having been sent down, which the officer either could not, or would not serve, the Sheriff was sued for the debt, and obliged to pay it. Was the Sheriff ever reimbursed by the *late M. P. for the City of Coventry?* Such was the fortune with which Jefferys boasted that he had retired from business; and the means by which he gained his election were so pure and incorrupt, that he afterwards confessed it cost him, or rather cost his creditors, only 4000*l.**. When he became bankrupt, were these 4000*l.* fairly stated in his accounts? Did he insert, in the items submitted to the Commissioners, the sums which he had expended to keep up the shew of opulence and splendour, while he was in a state of absolute insolvency? No—No!—His books did not exhibit a single trace of any past career of extravagance, dissipation, or profligacy. All deficiencies, all 'the dreadful calamities experienced by himself and family,' were ascribed to one cause, 'the depth of enterprize which his concerns with the Prince of Wales had assumed!'"

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* The writer of this article has mentioned 4000*l.* as expended for his seat in Parliament. My information leads me to believe it was nearer 7000*l.* as just stated in the preceding page.

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Mr. Jefferys may have been cunning enough to make his creditors believe that he was ruined, "by placing an unlimited confidence in a quarter, where a doubt of its rectitude would have been insult." But now the mask is taken off, the public will begin to view the subject in its true light, and the *weeping deceiver* must get the reward that is justly due to the dishonourable and unworthy. I should wish to be informed, how he can establish the position of the above passage. He failed for 40,000*l.* when, but a few months before he left the shop, he set himself up as a Member of Parliament, and gave out to the world, that he had retired from business with a fortune exceeding 40,000*l.* making together the enormous sum of upwards of 80,000*l.* And how does he account for this sum? By stating that the Commissioners appointed for arranging His Royal Highness's affairs had, "*by the mode of payment they had adopted, and the deductions they made,*" occasioned deficiencies (he does not term losses, nor were they, he knows it well, but a diminution of profit) to the amount of 16,808*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* and, by stating this to the public, he thinks he has most satisfactorily accounted for

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the cause of his ruin: because, to use Puff's expression in the Critic, "*The number of people who read, that undergo the fatigue of judging for themselves, are very few indeed.*" But surely no man will be weak enough to believe, on the mere assertion of Jefferys, so great an absurdity as that 16,808*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* could have produced a loss of, or swallowed up, the enormous sum of 80,000*l.* Certainly there are other items which have occasioned the defalcation, and I think 7000*l.* spent for his election at Coventry, in the year 1796, may be reckoned one; his two dividends, viz. 1*s.* 3*d.* and 6*d.* in the pound, amounted only to 3,500*l.* and, as for the remainder of the sum of 80,000*l.* I leave it to Jefferys to account for that, as well as for the other creations of his brain.

The conduct of His Royal Highness towards Mr. Jefferys, from the following account, was most magnificent, and such as characterizes the Heir Apparent to the Throne on all occasions.

"Previous to going to trial, I considered it a mark of respect due to the Prince of Wales, to state to His Royal Highness the necessity which existed of defending both my character and property, which were so deeply involved in the question; and I expressed a hope that His Royal Highness would grant me permission to resist, before a Jury, the very large deductions proposed to be made by the Commissioners.

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" His Royal Highness said, he highly approved of my conduct in so doing, and addressing himself to the Earl of Cholmondeley (then Lord Chamberlain to His Royal Highness), desired him to attend upon the trial, and to declare, if necessary, on the part of the Prince, his entire approbation as to the integrity of my conduct, in the whole of my concerns with His Royal Highness.

" Lord Cholmondeley attended accordingly, but the Counsel for the Defendants (the Commissioners) declined detaining him in Court, saying, they were satisfied upon the subject; and, when I had obtained the verdict, His Royal Highness congratulated me upon my success.—I had, therefore, every ground to be satisfied with my situation.—The Prince had approved of my resisting the proposed deductions of the Commissioners,—the Jury had awarded me a favourable verdict,—the present Lord Chancellor had, in the letter just stated, expressed his opinion of my claim,—and the Prince congratulated me on my success."

But there is a great difference between giving a sanction to his tradesman's claim in a court of law, and suffering Mr. Jefferys to publish any account he pleased, in which His Royal Highness's liberality was unhandsomely questioned. No man could take more pains than Mr. Jefferys did to prejudice the public against the dignity and honour of the Prince of Wales, consequently he had no just cause to be angry when His Royal Highness dispensed with his company and services.

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The following letter is couched in terms not at all calculated to have rendered him any service with the Prince; it directly accuses His Royal Highness of having been the cause of all his miseries, when the Prince must have been fully satisfied that he was urging an untruth, as a plea for favours. I think, without troubling my reader with a repetition of remark, I have already shewn the cause of his ruin, which His Royal Highness had nothing to do with, except pitying a weak and ambitious mind.

Pall-Mall, June 25, 1801.

SIR,

From the difficulties I have experienced for the last four years to provide for my family, arising from the mistaken idea of the public, that my misfortunes *did not originate from the cause I state, but my own improper conduct*; and *the sanction* this idea has unfortunately received, from your Royal Highness totally withdrawing from me that patronage I had formerly the good fortune to enjoy, and which I am not conscious of ever having deserved to forfeit; I am most forcibly called upon to take some *method publicly to* vindicate my character in the opinion of the world, to whom I am ultimately to look for support.

I have drawn up the inclosed statement for that sole purpose; and your Royal Highness, I am confident, in the perusal of it, will not deny to me the credit of having carefully abstained from all reflections on any individual.

The cruelty of my situation has seldom, I believe, been experienced by any man: my fortune has been ruined, my cha-

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racter discredited, and my health broken with excessive anxiety. All this has been produced by placing an unlimited confidence in a quarter, where a doubt of its rectitude would have been insult.

The injury I individually complain of, Sir, is not confined to me, it extends to the public: a sacred principle of our Constitution,—the Verdict of a Jury,—has been rendered of no effect.

Influenced by the powerful calls of necessity, and urged by no principle of resentment to any person, in the mode I adopt to vindicate my character, I hope for your Royal Highness's *forgiveness*, if any thing I have said should hurt your feelings; —I assure your Royal Highness nothing is farther from my intention.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Royal Highness's obedient Servant,

NATH. JEFFERYS.

In the above letter Mr. Jefferys does not appear satisfied without placing the whole of his misfortunes at the door of His Royal Highness; even his "broken health" is in the catalogue of the Prince's wrongs to him; as if His Royal Highness could have been the guardian of his passions and morality. But when a man's desperate situation in life obliges him to live by falsehood, he may as well tell a good round l—, as lose his character for a trifling deviation from truth. If I may judge from his immethodical arrangement of the materials of his pamphlet, I

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can readily conceive that his mind is not sufficiently schooled in the art of reasoning, which accounts for his jumbling all his thoughts together, by which means he places wrongs to the account of the Prince of Wales, which belong to himself.

The ill health which Mr. Jefferys speaks of as having originated in his ill success in the world, is not true—Mr. Jefferys should remember in addition to the heavy expence of carriages, horses, houses, servants, &c. &c. that he was an expensive *gay deceiver*, and when a man revels in wantonness, and "roves through all the wiles of love," he must expect to possess *marks of affection* from the Paphian Goddess.

In another part of his letter he says, "my fortune has been ruined." How could the Prince of Wales ruin Mr. Jefferys, *when he got every farthing of his* money, with *the exception of* 16,808*l.* a deduction of an *exorbitant interest*, which twelve of *his countrymen* would not allow him when his case was investigated in the sacred temple of justice.

Suppose Mr. Jefferys had been as much delighted with the society of one of the most wealthy merchants of the City of London, as he has

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been with that of the Prince of Wales, and from some concealed motives of interest, had furnished him with jewellery to the amount of the Prince's bill; I should wish to know, which of the two would be considered the safest paymaster,—the merchant, who is amenable to the bankrupt laws, or His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who, by the constitutional laws of England, cannot avail himself of the privilege which belongs to the common subject. That being the case, I do venture to say, that he has been a very fortunate man, in having had such an illustrious creditor. For the merchant might have tumbled to pieces, and paid Mr. Jefferys no more than 1*s.* and 9*d.* in the pound, the sum Mr. Jefferys very *liberally* gave his creditors out of 68,220*l.* and upwards, money received from His Royal Highness.

The complaints therefore of Mr. Jefferys can only be founded on his not receiving a profit of 16,808*l.* more than either the Commissioners or an English Jury thought he was entitled to, consequently his claim is an unjust one, and would not warrant the most temperate appeal to the public or the Prince, much less a scurrilous libel.

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Some of the letters sent by Jefferys to the Prince of Wales, contain nothing more than a repetition of his former remarks, already commented on; I shall therefore only extract such passages from them as require notice. His letter dated January 4, 1803, has this passage, which will lead me into a short view of Mr. Jefferys in the character of a politician.

"That I have not omitted such opportunities as my limited situation has afforded, of shewing every respect I could to your Royal Highness, I beg to refer you to the part I took in the debate, in the House of Commons, on the subject of your Royal Highness's claims to the Cornish Arrears."

Before I go into an inquiry of his general talents for a representative of the public, I must be permitted to observe, that he could be of little or no use to the illustration of the Prince's right, as Duke of Cornwall, with the exception of the value of his vote, when the House went into a division.

Mr. Jefferys' talents and reading are of that confined nature, that the little he did say, could not possibly have had any weight. A question involving so much legal knowledge, and on which

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the most exalted talents and learning of the country were displayed, naturally threw Mr. Jefferys out of the sphere of his attainments, consequently his speech was nothing but a little common-place panegyric on His Royal Highness, which only occupied the time of the House unnecessarily, without commanding attention or serving the Prince. The House of Commons looked up to men of another description for the full explanation of the Prince's claims; and had not the subject been suspended * by the wish of His Royal

* On Monday February 28, 1803, the following communication was made to the House of Commons, through the medium of Mr. Tyrwhitt.

" That the Prince has felt with the most sincere and affectionate gratitude, the gracious purpose of His Majesty, in recommending his present situation to the consideration of Parliament. That having seen, by the votes of the House of Commons, the manner in which they have received His Majesty's recommendation, the Prince deems it incumbent on him to express his warmest acknowledgment of their liberality; at the same time the Prince, though fully convinced of the propriety of resuming his state, and greatly regretting any circumstance which tends to disappoint the wishes of His Majesty, or of the House upon that subject, yet feels himself bound explicitly to declare, that there are still claims remaining upon his honour and his justice, for the discharge of which he must continue to set apart, in trust, a large sinking fund, and consequently postpone until the period of their liquidation,

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Highness, the public would have been satisfied his claims were justly founded on constitutional principles. If Mr. Jefferys were to make an oration in a little vestry-room, he might perhaps distinguish himself among cheesemongers, shoemakers, &c. &c. on the propriety of a new and fashionable set of church plate, or in turning the course of a drain, or in raising a new lamp-post; but to allow him to legislate for one of the most enlightened countries in the universe, only reflects

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the resumption of that state and dignity, which, however essential to his rank and station, he knows, from dear-bought experience, could not, under his present circumstances, be resumed without the risk of incurring new difficulties.

"The Prince thinks that he owes it to himself and to Parliament, to make this declaration to them, with the same distinctness as he stated it to His Majesty's Government upon the first communication made to him of His Majesty's benign intentions.

"With respect to the Prince's claim to an account of the revenues which accrued from the Dutchy of Cornwall, from the year 1762 to 1783, however strong his confidence in the validity of his claim, a confidence fortified by the strongest legal authorities, yet as he trusts, that through the gracious interposition of His Majesty, and the liberality of Parliament, he shall be enabled otherwise to provide for those demands on his justice, which alone induced him to assert his right, he now cheerfully relinquishes his suit, and has directed his law officers to forego all further proceedings."

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censure on the discrimination and good sense of his constituents.

His Royal Highness is a gentleman of great natural energies of mind, heightened by all the attainments that learned and polished society can give, to add greatness and lustre to the Heir Apparent to the Throne.

The Prince must therefore have seen Mr. Jefferys' deficiencies too plainly, to set any value on his officious services in the House of Commons. I have a right to question the sincerity of the sentiments of Mr. Jefferys' speech in favour of the Prince's augmentation of property.

The substance of his little oration went to shew the House of Commons and the country, how much the Prince of Wales was entitled to the indulgence of Parliament, and the people, for an increase of income.

Now Mr. Jefferys assumes a different opinion, in page 60 of his pamphlet, where he expresses a concern that the Prince should have had at various times such immense sums granted out of the industry of the people, to "supply his luxuries and expences."

What must his constituents and the public at

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large think of a man who could *three years* ago advise the nation, through the medium of the House of Commons, to grant the demands of the Prince of Wales as necessary and proper, and now, in the year 1806, publish the recantation of his sentiments, though His Royal Highness has not received any augmentation of income from the grant of the nation since Mr. Jefferys delivered his speech. The conduct of Mr. Jefferys has been either extremely unjust and dishonourable to his constituents and the public, in having supported and voted contrary to his real sentiments, or he has shamefully wronged the Prince, in having endeavoured to irritate and stimulate the public to take a false view of His Royal Highness's conduct and affairs.

In a letter to the Earl of Moira, dated March 12, 1806, he speaks of his parliamentary services in this way:

"I have constantly, my Lord, in Parliament, supported the present Administration, while in opposition; in their most unpopular moments, and I hope they will not, now that they are in power, forsake me, because I can be no longer of any use to them."

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In answer to the above paragraph, I beg leave to observe, that Mr. Jefferys was not of any service to the present Administration, who constituted the Opposition of his time, as he *could not take a part* in any animated debate; and the value of his vote was like the services of a supernumerary man in a theatre, who stands as a figure, but does nothing to produce notice or admiration.

When the present Administration were fighting every inch of ground they stood on, they wanted talents and eloquence to assist their cause, not merely the man who could do little more than hold up his hand.

If the country is now in such a state as to require an efficient Ministry, what would the public say, if the Prince of Wales, or any of the leading Gentlemen now in power, were to recommend a person to a seat in Parliament, or any important office in the State, who has scarcely logic and eloquence enough to make a broker's auctioneer?

If the public believe Mr. Jefferys' statement, that he was the zealous and warm friend of Mr.

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Fox and his party, they are in the dark as to the truth. He conditionally offered himself to Mr. Pitt, and *had the modesty* to stipulate the nature of the provision he expected for his services, though he had not long before this application abused the late Premier, and concluded *a little bit* of a speech, by asking, "Where a worse Minister could be found than Mr. Pitt?" But that immortal statesman spurned his offer, and pitied the weakness of the man. I have been informed he made a similar application to Lord Sidmouth, then Mr. Addington, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, who also rejected his *kind offer*.

So much for the attachment this political weathercock has shewn to his party; and, like a weathercock, he has all the velocity of circular motion, without being true to the gale.

I shall not ask Mr. Jefferys how he procured a *qualification* for a seat in Parliament, or how he lost it when his right was contested before a Committee of the House of Commons; as such a question would be touching him too near the quick; I will therefore leave that subject for him and his *sad* friend Mr. T. to explain, who vio-

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lated his confidence in the cause of truth, when before a Committee of the House of Commons.

I suppose Mr. Jefferys acquired the art and *mystery of keeping secrets*, from this late valuable and trusty friend.

As Mr. Jefferys' pamphlet has no regular beginning, middle, or end, I hope, therefore, I shall be excused for returning back a few pages, to notice the purport of a paragraph in page 42. He observes, that in consequence of meeting the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Fitzherbert on the road, both going to, and returning from Brighton, His Royal Highness sent Colonel M'Mahon to the gentleman in whose company he was, to know the object of his visit to that town. The gentleman told Colonel M'Mahon that Mr. Jefferys' journey to Brighton was merely that of pleasure, and by his particular invitation. After some exchange of remark, Colonel M'Mahon observed, that an illiberal paragraph had appeared in *The True Briton*, which caused great uneasiness to Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince, and which Mr. Jefferys was suspected of writing. Do not let it be understood that I wish to accuse Mr. Jefferys of

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having written this paragraph; I only mean to account for the uneasiness which the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert had shewn on seeing Mr. Jefferys on the road to Brighton. Though I exonerate him from being the author of the paragraph in question, yet I cannot but think the Prince of Wales and the above Lady had good grounds for their suspicion, knowing the insincerity of Mr. Jefferys to them on other occasions. Who was more likely to write a little ridiculous squib, as an indulgence of disappointed ambition, than Mr. Jefferys? Who was so likely to wound the feelings of a Lady (the pretended cause of his ruin) as Mr. Jefferys, who had taken a liberty with her name and affairs at every corner of the public streets, and in half the coffee-rooms west of Temple Bar? Who was so likely to write a malignant paragraph on the Prince's social moments in the Pavilion, as the man who had been justly dismissed, for having endeavoured to contaminate the public mind against the honour and dignity of their Prince, while he was feeding on Royal bounty? Who was so likely to sneak into the kitchen of the Pavilion, and cull the secrets of the mansion, as Peeping Tom of Coventry?—

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I say, who was so likely to do all these things, as the man who has published *sixty-eight pages of slander on the Heir Apparent to the Throne?* Well might the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert question the cause of his visit to Brighton. Mr. Jefferys says, he thought the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert had forgotten him. Such a man ought to be forgotten; but if remembered, the heart must palpitate with indignation.

I do not wish to offend Mr. Jefferys by putting too close a question to him; but, *as he holds secrets at no great value*, there can be no impropriety in my asking him, whether he has now a silversmith's shop in any part of London? Some time ago a shop was opened in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly, under the name of ——, and when its concerns were going on but indifferently, it is said Mr. Jefferys stepped forward to shore up the falling pile. I, however, suppose his ill health deprived him of the strength necessary for its support; and the firm, being composed of more *spirit* than *substance*, it soon vanished, "like the baseless fabric of a vision, and left not a wreck behind."

Having taken a view of Mr. Jefferys' political

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character, I shall not dwell at any length on that part of his pamphlet (page 46) which shews his proceedings on the change of the Administration. But it may be necessary to observe, that neither Lord Moira, nor any of His Royal Highness's friends, could countenance a person who had been annoying the Prince in every way he was able.

The following paragraph, however, shews that his ambition was not yet cooled for becoming great in the state:

"I of course had reason to hope, that the years of adversity I had passed, would be now succeeded by some provision to render the remainder of my life easy and tranquil."

Out of respect to the Prince, the new Administration could not take to their bosom an adder, who had stung their Illustrious Patron.

I shall make very few observations on this part of his Letter to Lord Erskine, because I think a cool and impartial view of his pamphlet will shew whether he had any just claims on the Prince's liberality, after treating His Royal Highness in the way I have already noticed and dilated upon.

"MY LORD,

"The total neglect I have experienced from the Prince of Wales, for ten years, to every application I have made to

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him, during that period, as well as the present time, for a performance of the promise he has made to remunerate the private services I have done for him, and the distresses I have experienced, in consequence of my confidence in His Royal Highness, *has induced me to prepare, for immediate publication, a statement of all the facts on which I ground my claim to the Prince's assistance.*"

The last lines of the above quotation announce the embryo malice with which his mind had been long pregnant; and now, for the first time, His Royal Highness is informed, through the medium of Lord Chancellor Erskine, that if he does not choose to provide for him and his family, as a compensation for the losses his extravagant conduct has occasioned, Mr. Jefferys will open a budget, and disseminate the poison on paper, which before issued privately from his tongue.

It will be seen by the following part of his letter to Lord Erskine, that he has had the vanity to parallel his case with that of the Prince, when His Royal Highness's claims to military rank were the subject of discussion between Him, His Royal Father, and Brother.

"Should the Prince of Wales be of opinion that the public mode I adopt to vindicate my character is improper, I have to

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plead, in excuse, not only the necessity of the case, to which I am forced by the oppression I suffer, but the example of the Prince of Wales himself, who, conceiving his claim to military rank not being properly attended to, sanctioned the publication of the private correspondence of the King, the Duke of York, and himself, in the Morning Herald, of December 7, 1803."

But Mr. Jefferys should recollect, that the precedent he has presumed to follow, arose from an affair of national consequence, and will bear no affinity to the commercial transaction of a tradesman. At the time His Royal Highness wished to employ his talents for the increase of our military honour, and the protection of his country, he only asked to give those services in the hour of danger, which almost every member of the state was called upon to perform, in some military way, according to his rank and station in life; consequently the tender became a proper subject for the consideration of the nation.—Surely then, the Prince's publication of his private correspondence alluded to, being of a constitutional nature, affords not example for a tradesman's invective. But this is like the rest of Mr. Jefferys' *reasoning*.

On his letter to the Prince of Wales being re-

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turned unopened, he wrote a long epistle to Colonel M'Mahon, wherein he recapitulates his services to the Prince, which have already come under my notice; and he concludes his letter with informing the Prince through Colonel M'Mahon, that he shall lay his case before the public, unless he receives some redress. In consequence of this letter, it appears Lord Moira requested an interview with Mr. Jefferys, and the result his own words will explain.

"His Lordship told me my conduct was scandalous, in writing such a letter to Colonel M'Mahon, and in proposing to publish my case under the title of "*A Review of the Conduct of the Prince of Wales*;" that he should think it his duty to persuade His Royal Highness never more to notice me; that my conduct was a fit subject for the attention of an Attorney-General; and his Lordship went so far as to compare my proposal to publish a review of the Prince's conduct, to the threatening letter of a felon to extort money."

There is not a gentleman in the kingdom, who is held in higher estimation for talents, humanity, courage and honour, than Lord Moira.

I am sure the public will agree with me, when I say that the Crown of England would not in-

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duce his Lordship to wound the feelings, and oppress an injured man, or become the instrument of a mean act; the language therefore of this enlightened statesman and officer, must have some weight with the public, while it conveys no very favourable opinion of Mr. Jefferys' intentions of frightening the Prince of Wales out of his money. The last line of the above paragraph is too strong, to have escaped the mild lips of his Lordship without good cause.

Mr. Jefferys observes, that he requested Lord Moira to inform him, what was the ground of the Prince's displeasure with him; and his Lordship declared "he had never heard of any." It is not likely that His Royal Highness would take notice of Mr. Jefferys' *volubility* of tongue; it was enough to know that he had done wrong, without condescending to enter into an altercation on so painful a subject.

From the following paragraph, it appears Mr. Jefferys takes upon himself to question the propriety of the Prince's expenditure in altering and decorating Carlton House.

"The enormous and unnecessary expences going on at Brighton, and at Carlton House;—as the former, alterations

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"an expenditure, amounting to a sum very considerably exceeding 10,000*l.* and at Carlton House, where every thing was finished, not long since, in a style truly suitable to the residence of the Heir Apparent, under the direction of an architect of refined taste, founded on science (Mr. Holland); all is now pulling to pieces, under the direction of a gentleman, called an *amateur architect*, at an expence beyond calculation."

This Jack-of-all-Trades, *Silversmith*, *Courtier*, *Politician*, *House Agent*, *Physiognomist*, and *Secret-monger*, now assumes architectural knowledge, and, with an air of scientific skill, reprobates the ornamental alterations and improvements of a plan he is not suffered to see, and therefore cannot judge of; and, like the fox in the fable, he talks of nothing but the sourness of the grapes. If Mr. Jefferys had accused His Royal Highness of having sent his money out of the country, or of having locked it up in the stocks, the people might justly complain, that their industry and talents met with no return of Royal encouragement; but, while he intended by the above paragraph to shew the Prince in the most unfavourable point of view to the public, he has involuntarily been paying His Royal Highness's liberality a handsome compliment. The money expended by men of large fortune in the coun-

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try, in the decorations and improvements of their property, soon gets into various channels of circulation, and, like the streamlets of a river, communicates benefit to the whole country.

Mr. Jefferys continues his remarks on the extravagance of His Royal Highness, in these terms:

"These large expences going on, while the discharge of an act of justice and honour remains unperformed, and which would little interfere with the expenditure alluded to, convey at once a very severe reflection on the conduct of the Prince of Wales, to whom all advances made by the public, are with a view to a proper and dignified support of his rank, *and must be disgusting to the generous feelings of the peoples who are under the necessity of depriving themselves, in many instances, not merely of the luxuries, but even of the common comforts of life, to defray the taxes imposed upon them.*"

From these words, "all advances made by the public are with a view to the proper and dignified support of his rank," does Mr. Jefferys mean that the Prince of Wales, and his Commissioners, were to subscribe to the exorbitant profit of nearly 100*l.* out of a 300*l.* bill, to support, what Mr. Jefferys calls rank and dignity? If so, His Royal Highness had better incur the displeasure of Mr. Jefferys and the public, than

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suffer his money to be so shamefully disposed of. If Mr. Jefferys had been allowed the whole of his exorbitant demand on the Prince, he might justly have used the last sentence of the above paragraph, as underlined.

But it is fortunate for the country, that neither His Royal Highness, nor his Commissioners, will suffer the grants of the public purse to be violated by the hands of a greedy and usurious tradesman, who only calumniates, because he can no longer put his hand in the Prince's pockets.

Mr. Jefferys observes, that though the Prince of Wales declined to assume the splendour of his establishment three years ago, for the laudable purpose of paying his creditors, yet he has never paid a shilling in diminution of their demands. I will take this to be the fact, for the sake of contrasting highly respectable men with a prattling impudent shop-keeper.

These tradesmen continue their importance in trade, notwithstanding the Prince of Wales may be largely indebted to them. I have not seen any of their names in the Gazette, nor do I find they complain of His Royal Highness's want of

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liberality to them. They all appear to increase in wealth, as well as general esteem, though neither of them have been in Parliament, nor assumed the character of a dashing sprig of fashion. I do not find a column of a newspaper occupied with the bills of Carlton House, impertinent remarks on the Prince's conduct, and an unsolicited justification of character. Their honour, good conduct, and integrity need no puff.

If they were all convened to give a candid opinion of the liberality of their Illustrious Customer, I have no doubt but every one of them would express a perfect satisfaction in the certain payment of their demands, and with infinite pleasure answer the orders of Carlton House.

No man is more inclined than I should be, to pourtray the amiable qualities and distinguished virtues of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, if the present subject would fairly admit of her name; but as Mr. Jefferys has introduced this amiable personage with no motive but to insult the Prince, and contrast characters, I am therefore compelled to make some few remarks on the malignancy of the act.

Mr. Jefferys has pretended to feel a delicacy

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in introducing the name of the above Illustrious Personage with that of Mrs. Fitzherbert; but if his bosom contained any respect for the Princess of Wales, he would not have brought her before the public, to receive an empty and insincere compliment, at the expence of her dearest feelings. Can Her Royal Highness feel gratified with the praise of a man who has endeavoured to blast the fair character of Her Royal Husband? Can she esteem a fawning sycophant, who has artfully introduced her name, that he might display the lustre of Her Highness's qualities, in order to cast a shade over the object of his hatred? But if he thinks Mrs. Fitzherbert so unworthy of esteem, he has grossly insulted the Princess of Wales, in having coupled characters of opposite habits.

Mr. Jefferys now commences moralist, and it is not more remarkable than true, that worn out gallants are in general great professors of virtue and morality.—I should not wonder if in a few years, when all trades fail, the public were to hear of Mr. Jefferys' regeneration and conversion, and find him on a tub in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, giving a wholesome *homily* on the

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nature of original sin. Mr. Jefferys appears to feel greatly for the indiscretion of the Nobility, who do not notice him, but receive the visits of Mrs. Fitzherbert. But if he had ever possessed any of her good qualities, he would now be more esteemed than he is, or ever can be.

All that he has observed in his biographical account of Mrs. Fitzherbert, will never injure her with the liberal part of the public, though the author of it will be despised for an ungentlemanly attack on a worthy and much-esteemed Lady. As I am as great an advocate for the freedom of speech as Mr. Jefferys, I shall finish my pamphlet with the tag-piece of his libel.

"It was the first command and counsel of my youth, always to do what my conscience told me to be my duty, and to leave the consequences to God! I shall carry with me the memory and, I trust, the practice of this parental lesson to the grave:—I have hitherto followed it, and have no reason to complain that my obedience to it has ever been a temporal sacrifice—I have found it, on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth—and I shall point it out as such to my children."—*Part of an Oration delivered by Lord Erskine.*

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